

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 06416 231637Z

43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 TRSE-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 OMB-01 EB-11

MC-02 DRC-01 EURE-00 COME-00 /103 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1826

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SEC AIR FORCE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

CJCS

USCINCEUR

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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1. A VICE PRESIDENT OF GENERAL DYNAMICS, JACK PHELAN, TOLD US TODAY THAT HE HAD BEEN APPROACHED REGARDING A TELEVISION SERIES ON THE F-104 REPLACEMENT BEING PLANNED BY THE BELGIAN FRENCH LANGUAGE TELEVISION COMPANY (RTB). RTB PLANS TO DO A SERIES OF 6 SHORTS BEGINNING ON SEPTEMBER 15.

2. THE FIRST SHORT WOULD HAVE A BELGIAN AIR FORCE OFFICER EXPLAIN THE BACKGROUND OF THE PROBLEM. THIS SHORT HAS LAREADY BEEN TAPED. THE SECOND THROUGH THE FIFTH SHORTS WOULD BE DEVOTED TO THE FRENCH, SWEDISH, AND THE TWO U.S. AIRCRAFT. THE SIXTH SHORT WOULD BE A WRAP-UP PROGRAM. RTB PLANS TO INTERVIEW VANDEN BOEYNANTS,  
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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 06416 231637Z

MINISTER OF DEFENSE, AND OLEFFE, MINISTER OF ECONOMICS.

3. RTB TELLS PHELAN THAT THE FOLLOWING FIVE QUESTIONS WILL BE ASKED:

1) DOES YOUR PLANE MEET ALL STANDARDS REQUIRED BY NATO?

2) DOES YOUR PLANE EXIST ONLY AS A PROTOTYPE? CAN YOU SUPPLY THE NUMBER OF PLANES REQUIRED BY BELGIUM?

3) WHAT IS THE APPROXIMATE PRICE OF YOUR PLANE AND IS IT COSTLY TO MAINTAIN?

4) WHAT DO YOU PROPOSE IN THE WAY OF OFFSET?

5) BELGIUM ALREADY HAS AN ASSEMBLY LINE FOR PLANES AND SKILLED PERSONNEL. WOULD YOU BE READY TO USE THEM? RTB ALSO WANTS FILM CLIPS OF THE PLANES OF ABOUT 10 TO 15 MINUTES DURATION.

4. PHELAN TOLD THE RTB THAT HE WOULD SEEK GUIDANCE AND PROVIDE AN ANSWER.

5. THIS IS AN OPPURTUNITY TO EXPLAIN THE MERITS OF OUR CASE THAT WE SHOULD NOT MISS. WE CAN TAKE OFF FROM THE QUESTIONS AND MAKE WHATEVER POINTS WE WISH. FAILURE TO PARTICIPATE WOULD GIVE THE STAGE ENTIRELY TO THE FRENCH (AND THE SWEDES). WE REALIZE THE DIFFICULTIES OF FIELDING A SPOKESMAN WHO IS KNOWLEDGABEL ABOUT THE PROGRAM AND ALSO WHO CAN SPEAK FRENCH. HOWEVER WE RECOMMEND THAT MAJOR EFFORT TO DO SO BE MADE. IN OUR JUDGEMENT REPRESENTATIVES OF GENERAL DYNAMICS AND NORTHROP COULD EITHER APPEAR ON SUCCESSIVE PROGRAMS OR APPEAR ON THE SAME PROGRAM AND TAKE TURNS ANSWERING QUESTIONS. IN EITHER CASE THEY WOULD REPLY ON THE BASIS OF POSITIONS PREVIOUSLY AGREED BY U.S. GOVERNMENT AND BOTH COMPANIES. IF THEY COULD NOT DO THIS IN FRENCH, IT WOULD BE BETTER TO DO IT IN ENGLISH, AND TO HAVE THEIR ANSWERS TRANSLATED OR DUBBED, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BRUSSE 06416 231637Z

THAN NOT AT ALL.

6. REUUEST DEPARTMENT OF AIR FROCE CONTACT U.S. COMPANIES AND COORDINATE RELEASE OF APPROVED LANGUAGE AND FILM CLIPS. NOTE THAT RTB WANTS TO BEGIN SERIES ON SEPTEMBER 15 AND IS ALREADY PRESSING FOR AN ANSWER.RENNER

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## Message Attributes

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